

Report of David Thompson

Sept. 13, 1926.

As reported to you personally this forenoon, I had a talk with Mr. George Sipel, and he gave me considerable information. At the time of my interview Mr. Sipel was anxious to get away to go to Somerville with his wife, as he had been notified by the State Police that he should be there. In fact he was afraid that some of the officers might drop in while I was there. I therefore made an appointment to meet him at 7 P. M. to secure his full story, and also that of his wife and children. I went to his home at the appointed time last evening, and found that both he and his wife had been detained at Somerville, and it was doubtful that they would return. I will see him sometime tomorrow.

Mr. Watson introduced me to Mr. and Mrs. Russell. They at the time were leaving for Somerville. I saw them again this evening, and they informed me that they had been to Somerville and had talked with Inspector Underwood, and that he had asked them why Mrs. Russell had gone to Asbury Park without permission from the authorities. They had succeeded in making their peace with him so much so that Underwood said that Mrs. Russell could go to New York to work if she wanted to, but that she must keep in touch with them if she did so. I have an appointment to meet Russell and his wife at 11:30 tomorrow morning, at which time they will take me to interview Schultz. Russell informed me last evening that a number of witnesses who are being called in an effort to discredit his wife's story, for bad reputation, and that he can give me several leads that I will be able to discredit these people. In company with Mr. Edwin Carpenter I interviewed Mr. Cornelius Cadmus of R. F. D. No. 3 New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Cadmus for thirteen years was County Assessor and has known Mrs. Gibson since she came into Franklin Township fifteen years ago. He was also Secretary of the Board of Health of Franklin Township for a number of years and states that during that time he received several complaints about the unsanitary conditions which existed at the Gibson farm. He said that Mrs. Gibson was never convicted for any violation of the sanitary laws, but that he had gone to her farm on many occasions, and that she had been summoned before the Board, and would promise to remedy conditions, but would never keep her promises. He also claims that she is a woman who draws upon her imagination to a very great extent, and is untruthful and untrustworthy. To back up his idea of her, he states that while he was County Assessor the County Board ordered that the assessments be raised on the various farms, and that Mrs. Gibson appeared before the Board and charged that the reason that her assessment was raised was due to the fact that she did not give Cadmus liquor and other gifts the same as was being done by other property owners.

Cadmus informed us that Edward Garretson of East Hillstone could give us considerable information concerning Mrs. Gibson. This man happens to be one of the members of the new Grand Jury, so for that reason we did not interview him. He also claims that



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Dr. Cooper of East Hillstone and Frank Rensen, one of the Freeholders of Franklin Township, would be good persons for us to interview.

We endeavored to locate Dr. Cooper and finally succeeded. I have an appointment with him to meet him at Mr. Edwin Carpendor's home at 3 P. M. tomorrow. We also interviewed Frank Rensen. He claims that he knows nothing that would be of any value concerning Mrs. Gibson, but suggested that we get in touch with Dr. Cooper, and that he would be able to give us considerable information.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Carpendor went with me to see Mrs. Charles H. Brown. Mrs. Brown did not have any information of any great value, but informed us that Mrs. Joseph Sullick or Sullick, who lives in the vicinity of French and Somerset Streets, New Brunswick, near the Brook and county line, at the time of the murders was caretaker on the Phillips Farm, and that she had stated that she did not see how it was possible for the two bodies to have remained lying in the same position where they were found for two days, as she kept her cow tied in that locality each day, and undoubtedly would have seen the bodies if they were there. I am endeavoring to locate this woman to secure her story. Mrs. Brown also mentioned the fact that she did not believe that the baby at the Gibson home was Mrs. Gibson's child, also that there was talk that it was her child and that Bill Whittaker was the father.

I also talked with her son, Walter Brown. He informed me that he had been in and around the Gibson farm with Willie Easton off and on for a number of years. That Mrs. Gibson was a very peculiar woman, and in fact that in all the time that he was around the place, he had never been permitted to enter the house. He later had some words with Mrs. Gibson because his dog had fought with Mrs. Gibson's dog. He told me that he had never seen Mrs. Gibson with a gun or a revolver, although he understood that she had one. He further stated that Mrs. Gibson had threatened to shoot a colored barber, who has a shop on French street, New Brunswick, across from the Washington school, and also Rollin Harbough, a well driller who resides on the Hamilton Road toward East Hillstone. I interviewed Harbough, and he stated that last July he was crossing Mrs. Gibson's property when she came out and ordered him off. There was an exchange of words between them and Mrs. Gibson told him that she would shoot him if he did not get off her property at once. She did not produce a gun. I will endeavor to locate the colored barber.

Brown also stated that Cecil Battle had a colored man that lived on the Gibson farm for a long while; that he had a fight with Mrs. Gibson and had hurriedly moved away; that Battle had wanted him to take care of the moving for him, but Mrs. Gibson told him not to do so. He claims that Battle has a wife and child, and moved somewhere around New Brunswick.

Respectfully submitted:

D.E.